

John L. Brown's Letter of Impugnment Mentioned in the Assembly

Parliament 29, Session 4 June 28, 1974

[Hansard Transcript 1974-Jun-28 | Legislative Assembly of Ontario \(ola.org\)](#)

Mr. F. Drea (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege before the adjournment. I and several other members of this Legislature had delivered to them today a letter which very seriously impugns the motives of members of this Legislature. It is under the letterhead of Browndale.

I want to raise a couple of points in here as a matter of privilege because it suggests that members of the Legislature are in collusion with members of the medical profession to fund them to perform experimental operations or other experiments upon human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to your attention a paragraph on page 2, and I quote the paragraph:

“There has been deliberate collusion among the professional community in psychiatry, psychology and social work in the Toronto area against any encroachment on the medical model of service to children. There has been gross experimentation in areas that have no facility for experimentation. There has been collusion to pass experiments off as services.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like further on the point of privilege to quote from a paragraph on page 3: “At the time that I am writing there is a group of people at Queen’s Park who are trying to abuse community treatment and re-establish the need for institutional services. They include a number of my former colleagues in the back benches on the Tory side of the House and a few of the unstable, irrational members of the Liberal caucus. They include such people as the Hon. Mrs. M. Scrivener, the Hon. Mrs. M. Birch, the Hon. Matt Dymond, Mr. Westcott of the Prime Minister’s office, and a few others who are too honourable to be mentioned, but happily they do not include other members of the cabinet or the leadership of the opposition parties.”

Mr. Speaker, this letter is signed -- and I have every reason to believe it was signed. It is a true copy of a letter signed by a Mr. John L. Brown, along with a notation that copies have been sent

to all members of the provincial Parliament at Queen's Park, all members of the council of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, and as well to the press.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I, as a member of this Legislature, have now been accused of voting funds so that medical practitioners may perform experiments upon humans, I frankly regard this as a gross breach of the privileges of this House. I have no reason to believe that this is correct but, nonetheless, I raise it because when a person who has some stature in the community decides to take this particular route of an accusation against all the members of the Legislature, regardless of their party, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, the time has come that we draw the line.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the charges outlined in this letter, since to me they violate every privilege I have as a member, at the very least a select committee be struck off to investigate the charges and the person who made them. Quite frankly, at the very most it might be a more practical suggestion that there be a judicial inquiry, not only into the charges that have been made about experimentation upon human beings who are wards of the Crown, but a judicial inquiry into the person and the operations who are making them.

Mr. Speaker: I must say that I have not been able to determine just what parliamentary privilege has been breached. Perhaps the letter may contain some accusations. Of course, it is not within my authority or responsibility to set up any such inquiry as has been suggested. However, I will be pleased to look into the letter a little further to determine whether or not there has, in fact, been any parliamentary privilege that has been breached.

Hon. Mr. Winkler moves the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: This House stands adjourned until a date to be named by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The House adjourned at 8:40 o'clock, p.m.